

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 EB-11 SS-20 SP-03 NSC-07 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INR-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 INRE-00

NEAE-00 /073 W

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O P 011616Z MAY 74

FM USINT DAMASCUS

TO USDEL ALEXANDIRIA IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0431

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 0522

ALEXANDRIA FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY (SISCO AND ATHERTON)

BEIRUT FOR DWOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SY, US

SUBJECT: SALE OF C-130S TO SYRIA

REF: A. DAMASCUS 0511

B. ALEXANDRIA 0035 (NOTAL)

1. AFTERNOON MAY 1, I CONVEYED TO DUANE WOOD AND GEORGE LOMBARD, LOCKHEED REPS, GIST OF REFTEL B. BOTH MEN EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING AND SAID THEY PREPARED WAIT FOR FURTHER STATE DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE.

2. WOOD ALSO INFORMED ME THAT DURING MEETING EARLIER AFTERNOON OF MAY 1 GENERAL MOKAYED, HEAD OF SYRIAN ARAB AILINE, REITERATED SYRIAN GOVERNMENT'S HOPE FOR POSITIVE REPLY FROM USG TO THIS REQUEST. GENERAL MOKAYED ADDED THAT IN VIEW OF FACT THAT SYRIAN ARAB AIRLINES HAS NOW PROVIDED LOCKHEED WITH FORMAL WRITTEN REQUEST FOR THIS SALE IT HOPES THAT USG AND
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PARTICULARLY SECRETARY KISSINGER WILL MAKE NEXT MOVE

AND INDICATE TO SYRIANS WHAT USG POSITION WILL BE.
MR WOOD ASSUMED FROM THIS THAT FOREIGN MINISTER
KHADDAM MAY NOT REPEAT NOT NOW RAISE SUBJECT WITH
SECRETARY KISSINGER AS LOMBARD HAD ORIGINALLY
BEEN TOLD IN YESTERDAY'S CONVERSATION (SEE REFTTEL A).

2. MR WOOD ALSO TOLD ME THAT IN DISCUSSION ON
AVAILABILITY OF C-130S, WOOD AGAIN MADE IT CLEAR TO
GEN MOKAYED THAT LOCKHEED PRODUCTION LINE TIED UP
UNTIL 1976. WOOD ASKED SYRIANS WHICH ARAB GOVERNMENT
HE THOUGHT MIGHT BE WILLING TO CEDE ITS ORDERS TO
SYRIANS SHOULD THE USG ALLOW THE SALE TO BE MADE. HE
NOTED SPECIFICALLY THAT BOTH LIBYA AND SAUDI ARABIA
CURRENTLY HAVE PLACES ON THE PRODUCTION LINE. GENERAL
MOKAYED REPLIED THAT SAUDI ARABIA MIGHT BE SO
WILLING. WOOD SAID THAT HE INFORMED GENERAL MOKAYED
THAT LOCKHEED WOULD BE PREPARED TO INTERCEDE ON
BEHALF OF THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT WITH SAUDI ARABIA
AT SUCH TIME AS THE US GOVERNMENT GIVES THE GO-AHEAD
SIGNAL TO THE SALE, BUT OF COURSE HE WAS NOT SURE
THAT SAUDI ARABIA WOULD AGREE TO SUCH A DIVERSION.
SCOTES

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